1060th meeting of the

Pacific Coast Numismatic Society

8:00PM Wednesday August 25 2004

Steve Huston

Field Guide to GOKs*

* God only knows.

Pacific Coast Numismatic Society
Box 475656 San Francisco, CA 94147-5656
Bulletin Editor: Michael Wehner

Please join us Wednesday, August 25 to hear Steve Huston tell us how to investigate and possibly attribute your unidentified coins, medals, tokens, etc.

1059th Meeting July 28, 2004. The 1894 San Francisco Midwinter Fair *Rick Webster* (reviewed by *Herb Miles*)

Rick Webster, who has already spoken to the Society once this year, spoke again, this time on the 1894 California Midwinter Fair, also known as "The Fantastic Fair."

For San Franciscans, the name Michael de Young is very famous as the namesake for the wonderful museum in Golden Gate Park and as founder of the San Francisco Chronicle newspaper, but he was also the driving force behind the 1894 Midwinter Fair. After visiting Chicago Columbian Exposition in 1892, he believed that San Francisco should do something similar.

Deciding that Golden Gate Park would be a suitable location for the fair to the consternation of McLaren and Stowe, builders and caretakers of the park, de Young raised $40,000 from private sources, secured 180 acres of the park, and began building temporary buildings in a classical style.

Most of the buildings were flimsy and designed to be removed at the end of the fair, but several remain to this day including the Japanese Tea Garden and the Music Concourse. For the most part, the attractions were designed to make money, prizes were awarded in horticulture, invention, ethnology, and many other subjects popular at the time. At least 36 California counties participated, and 5 states set up pavilions including Hawaii and Arizona.

Bonet's Electrical Tower was the crowning achievement featuring a light beam that could be seen for miles. Other attractions included Dante's Inferno, the Haunted Swing, Cairo Street with the popular belly dancers, and a Firth's Wheel (a Ferris Wheel) fully 385 feet above the fair and holding 160 persons.

Exhibitions of Eskimos, natives from Africa (maybe), Hawaiian Hula dancers, and several nude art exhibits gave the straight-laced and religious visitors pause. Many exhibits

had been shipped from Chicago en masse and reassembled for San Francisco's delight.

This fair was a success for all involved and made a profit of about $66,000. Even though the exhibitors had promised to dismantle the buildings after it was over, they reneged on their offer so McLaren in great delight blew them up in 1896, all except the Japanese Tea Garden which he enjoyed!

Exhibits

Michael Wehner exhibited a nicely preserved 1788 Angelsey "Druid" token and discussed a Dahomey Village camel ride token which he believes was used at the Midwinter Fair and should be re-attributed in the Atwood-Coffee catalog to San Francisco.

Ken Takahashi brought a book of illustrations from the Midwinter Fair featuring the buildings and other beautiful landmarks of this purely San Francisco event.

Gordon Donnell exhibited a set of "encased cents" from Numismatic News and a Tenino, Washington Wooden check.

Jack Free brought his recently received Lewis and Clark Coin & Currency Set, a grouping of 1894 Midwinter tokens/medals, along with a batch of 2005 Redbooks.

Herb Miles brought two Bank of California postcards, showing the old building as it was in the early 20th century.

Elliot Wehner just back from the ANA Summer Seminar brought along his current grouping of Military Payment Certificates acquired at the seminar, Series 681 & 691, and some current Military "pogs".

Larry Reppeteau exhibited his 2004 Euro Irish set.

Mark Wm. Clark in keeping with the theme of the evening brought something entirely different, an Italian 10 Centesimi of 1911 celebrating the 50th year of the Republic.

And of course, Speaker for the Night *Rick Webster*, brought his collection of 1894 Midwinter tokens/medals along with a book describing the fair and its history.

Raffle

An Aluminum Medal, "Souvenir of the Sun Set City" with a picture of the Mechanics Arts Building, H&K #251 was won by *Gordon Donnell.*

California Midwinter Copper or Bronze Medal, "The Land of Sunshine Fruit and Flowers, 1894", H&K #245 went to *Jack Free.*

A Wells Fargo Bookmark was won by *Federico Castillo.*

Four PPIE Tickets went home with *Elliott Wehner.*

A Grouping of PCNS Journals, #10-20, including the Index to the first 20 volumes was won (again) by *Gordon Donnell.*

CSNA Northern California educational symposium

Please register now for the educational symposium. An exciting set of experts have agreed to speak. They are:

Joseph Lang "Chinese Cash,"

Charles Fracchia "Early California Banking,"

Hal Dunn "Carson City Mint"

Don Allen "Past, Present, Future: A Canadian Perspective on the Evolving Monetary Scene."

The event will be in Room 370 at Fort Mason in San Francisco from 10AM to 3PM on Saturday, October 2, 2004. As in past years, a box lunch is available for $10, *payable in advance only*. You can help the Society make this event a success by spreading the word to other Northern California numismatists.

Available from the PCNS

PCNS 1000th meeting medals.The set includes both a proof silver and an antiqued bronze specimen and is only $30 plus postage and insurance. A reminder of the Society's long history.

The Old Streets of San Francisco, Early Street Names on Some Brass Tokens by *Jerry F. Schimmel.* Published by the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society in 1993. 41 pages including many pictures. A must have reference for those interested in western trade tokens or San Francisco history. $10 plus postage

Announcing the 5th Educational Symposium of the California State Numismatic Association held in Northern California

Hosted by the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society

10:00 AM Saturday October 2, 2004
Fort Mason, Building C, Room 370 San Francisco, California

The Pacific Coast Numismatic Society is pleased to again host the California State Numismatic Association's Northern California Educational Symposium. Four nationally noted numismatists have agreed to speak in their areas of expertise. They are:

Joseph Lang "Chinese Cash,"
Charles Fracchia "Early California Banking,"
Hal Dunn "Carson City Mint"
Don Allen "Past, Present, Future: A Canadian Perspective on the Evolving Monetary Scene."

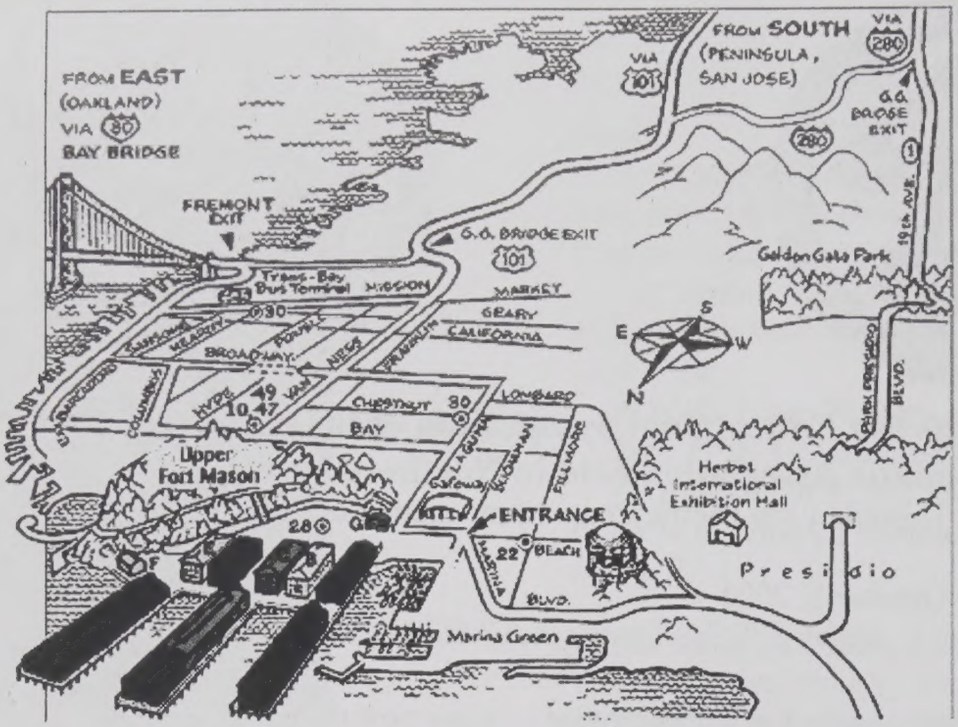
Registration is free so mark your calendars and return the registration form to attend this exciting numismatic event! An optional box lunch will be available for $10, payable to the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society, by September 22, 2004. **Please note that no lunch orders will be taken on the day of the event.** For further information please contact the Society at the address below.

Pacific Coast Numismatic Society
PO Box 475656
San Francisco, CA 94147-5656

CSNA 5th Northern California Educational Symposium registration form

Name(s):_____
Please make checks payable to PCNS.

Amount enclosed: Number of lunches _____ X $10.00 =
Please select your sandwich choice(s):Turkey___ Ham___ Roast Beef___ Vegetarian___
Lunch includes Sandwich, drink and dessert.



Located between Fisherman's Wharf and the Golden Gate Bridge on San Francisco Bay. The entrance to Fort Mason Center is at the intersection of Marina Boulevard and Buchanan Street, in the Marina district.

Convenient MUNI lines 10 Townsend, 22 Fillmore, 28 - 19th Avenue, 30 Stockton, 47 Van Ness, 49 Van Ness/Mission, 82x Presidio/Wharves Express

From the East Bay Bay Bridge to Fremont Street Exit; on Fremont (100 yards north) take first right on Howard; left on Embarcadero and go 2 miles; left on Bay and go 2 miles; right on Buchanan. Cross Marina Boulevard and turn sharp right into Fort Mason Center.

From the North Bay Golden Gate Bridge (US 101) to Marina Exit; Marina Boulevard (1.5 miles) to Buchanan and turn left into Fort Mason Center.

From the Peninsula/South Bay US 101 North to 9th Street Exit; 9th across Market and left on Hayes; right on Franklin; left on Bay; right on Buchanan. Cross Marina Boulevard and sharp right into Fort Mason Center.

Parking Enter at the intersection of Buchanan Street and Marina Boulevard. Make a sharp right into the Center, or a left to park along the Marina Green. For some large events, free parking and shuttle service to the event is provided near the Presidio. Follow the signs along Marina Boulevard.